

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00254 061530Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 HA-05 OIC-02
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /135 W
-----126052 062144Z /63

R 061400Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6271
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ILO, ELAB, PORG, LU
SUBJ: US AND ILO

REF: (A) STATE 38223, (B) LUXEMBOURG 0087

1. SUMMARY: EMBOFF DISCUSSED U.S. RELATIONSHIP WITH ILO WITH JEAN SCHLICH, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, AND WITH ROMAIN SCHINTGEN, COUSLOR, MINISTRY OF LABOR, DRAWING ON TALKING POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL A. BOTH WERE SYMPATHETIC TO U.S. POLICY BUT NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF SUFFICIENTLY POSITIVE EVOLUTION TO ENABLE U.S. RETURN TO ORGANIZATION.

2. THE GOL IS REPRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL PLENARY ILO MEETINGS BY A LABOR MINISTRY DELEGATION COMPOSED OF LABOR MINISTER BERG SECRETARY OF STATE THOSS AND SCHINTGEN. PRIOR TO THE JUNE MEETING THESE PRINCIPALS WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE EC
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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00254 061530Z

GROUP SESSIONS WITH USUALLY PRECEDE SUCH CONFERENCE. OTHERWISE THE GOL IS KEPT INFORMED OF ACTIVITIES IN GENEVA BY ITS SECRETARY OF LEGATION, AS NOTED REFTEL B.

3. ECON OFFICER REVIEWED WITH SCHLEICH OF MFA THE EVOLUTION OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE ILO. SCHLEICH EMPHASIZED THAT CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPMENTS UP TO AND DURING THE

64TH INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE IN JUNE ON ANY U.S. DECISION TO RETURN TO THE ILO. HE REITERATED THE GOL'S UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. MOTIVATION AND CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO RETURN THE ILO TO ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSES AND PROCEDURES. HE PROMISED TO INFORM THE GOL REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA OF DISCUSSION.

4. SCHINTGEN IS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPATE IN THE ILO ANNUAL MEETINGS AND HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ALL U.S.-G.O.L. DISCUSSIONS OF ILO POLICY, INCLUDING THE SILBERMAN MISSION. HE SAID THAT BOTH HE AND HIS MINISTER FULLY SHARE THE U.S. VIEW OF THE DEGENERATION OF THE ILO ALTHOUGH HE, ALONG WITH OTHER IMEC PARTICIPANTS, REGRETS LOSS OF U.S. AS STRONG, ACTIVE FORCE FOR THE GOOD OF THE ILO. SCHINTGEN COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE USG WAS BEING GENEROUS IN NOTING PROGRESS TOWARDS REAFFIRMATION OF TRADITIONAL PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF ILO. BUT HE IS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF SUFFICIENTLY MEANINGFUL POSITIVE SIGNS TO CAUSE U.S. RETURN TO ORGANIZATION. HE WAS INTERESTED IN U.S. ASSESSMENT OF KEY ISSUES, VIZ RESTRUCTURING, APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS, COMPLIANCE MACHINERY AND DUE PROCESS.

5. COMMENT: GOL IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF ILO AND WAS AMONG THE FIRST COUNTRIES TO INCREASE VOLUNTARILY ITS ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ORGANIZATION TO EASE THE FINANCIAL CRISIS CAUSED BY THE US WITHDRAWAL. ALTHOUGH SAD
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PAGE 03 LUXEMB 00254 061530Z

ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S., WHOM THE GOL CONSIDERED THE STRONGEST POSITIVE INFLUENCE AND ALLY WITHIN THE ILO, LUXEMBOURGERS ARE REALISTIC AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOALS BEHIND U.S. ACTION. THEY FEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WITHOUT THE U.S. AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT THERE IS LITTLE HOPE THAT THE ILO WILL MEND ITS WAYS. LOWENSTEIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUXEMB00254
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780101-0413
Format: TEL
From: LUXEMBOURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803103/aaaadjil.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2a30f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 38223, 78 LUXEMBOURG 87
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3108073
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US AND ILO
TAGS: ELAB, PORG, LU, ILO
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2a30f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014